

09/756,688
Page 2
April 22, 2005

CLAIM AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 - 20 (canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A drive assembly for a marine mud motor, comprising:

- a) an elongate drive tube, configured for rotatably receiving a drive shaft therethrough, wherein a lower end of the drive tube includes;
- b) a drive assembly housing, having a lower end;
- c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the drive assembly housing and the drive shaft; and
- d) a seal, contained within the drive assembly housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the drive assembly housing;
- e) a seal cap, coupled to the lower end of the drive assembly housing, configured for retaining the seal within the drive assembly housing; and
- f) at least one seal contained within the seal cap.

Claim 22 (canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A drive assembly as in claim 22 21, wherein:

- a) the lower end of the drive assembly housing has screw threads; and

09/756,688
Page 3
April 22, 2005

b) wherein the seal cap has screw threads, to allow the seal cap to be threadably connected to the lower end of the drive assembly housing.

Claim 24 (canceled)

25. (previously added) A drive assembly as in claim 21, wherein the drive assembly housing and the drive tube are an integral unit.

26. (currently amended) A drive assembly for a marine mud motor, comprising:

a) an elongate drive tube having an inside, an outside and a lower end, configured for rotatably receiving a drive shaft therethrough, wherein the lower end of the drive tube includes;

5 b) an enlarged drive assembly housing having an inside, an outside, an upper end and a lower end, wherein the inside diameter of the enlarged assembly housing is larger than the inside diameter of the elongate drive tube;

c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the enlarged drive assembly housing and the drive shaft and having an outside diameter larger than the inside diameter of the drive tube; and

10 d) a seal, contained within the enlarged drive assembly housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the enlarged drive assembly housing.

27. (canceled)

09/756,688
Page 4
April 22, 2005

28. (previously added) A drive assembly as in claim 26, further comprising a seal cap, coupled to the lower end of the enlarged drive assembly housing, configured for retaining the seal within the enlarged drive assembly housing.

29. (previously added) A drive assembly as in claim 26, wherein:

- a) the lower end of the enlarged drive assembly housing has screw threads; and
- b) wherein the seal cap has screw threads, to allow the seal cap to be threadably coupled to the lower end of the enlarged drive assembly housing.

30. (previously added) A drive assembly as in claim 28, wherein the seal cap includes at least one seal contained within the seal cap.

31. (previously added) A drive assembly as in claim 26, wherein the enlarged drive assembly housing and the drive tube are an integral unit.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A drive assembly as in claim 27 26, wherein the inside of the enlarged drive assembly housing is coupled to the outside of the elongate drive tube.

09/756,688
Page 5
April 22, 2005

40. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit for a marine propulsion system, comprising:

- a) an casing, configured for rotatably receiving a propeller shaft therethrough, wherein a lower end of the casing includes;
- b) a bearing housing, having a lower end;
- c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the bearing housing and the propeller shaft; and
- d) a seal, contained within the bearing housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the bearing housing.

41. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 40, further comprising a cover, coupled to the lower end of the bearing housing, configured for retaining the seal within the bearing housing.

42. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 41, wherein:

- a) the lower end of the bearing housing has screw threads; and
- b) wherein the cover has screw threads, to allow the cover to be threadably connected to the lower end of the bearing housing.

43. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 41, wherein the cover includes at least one seal contained within the cover.

09/756,688
Page 6
April 22, 2005

44. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 40, wherein the bearing housing and the casing are an integral unit.

45. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 40, wherein the bearing housing further comprises an inside and the casing has an outside, and wherein the inside of the bearing housing is coupled to the outside of the casing.

46. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit for a marine propulsion system, comprising:

a) an casing having an inside, an outside and a lower end, configured for rotatably receiving a propeller shaft therethrough, wherein the lower end of the casing includes;

b) an enlarged bearing housing having an inside, an outside, an upper end and a lower end, wherein the inside diameter of the enlarged assembly housing is larger than the inside diameter of the casing;

c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the enlarged bearing housing and the propeller shaft; and

d) a seal, contained within the enlarged bearing housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the enlarged bearing housing.

47. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 46, wherein the bearing includes an outside diameter larger than the inside diameter of the casing.

09/756,688
Page 7
April 22, 2005

48. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 46, further comprising a cover, coupled to the lower end of the enlarged bearing housing, configured for retaining the seal within the enlarged bearing housing.

49. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 46, wherein:

a) the lower end of the enlarged bearing housing has screw threads; and
b) wherein the cover has screw threads, to allow the cover to be threadably coupled to the lower end of the enlarged bearing housing.

50. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 48, wherein the cover includes at least one seal contained within the cover.

51. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 47, wherein the inside of the enlarged bearing housing is coupled to the outside of the casing.

52. (previously added) A sealed bearing unit as in claim 46, wherein the enlarged bearing housing and the casing are an integral unit.

Claims 53-72 (canceled)

09/756,688
Page 8
April 22, 2005

73. (New) A drive assembly for a marine mud motor, comprising:

- a) an elongate drive tube having an inside, an outside and a lower end, configured for rotatably receiving a drive shaft therethrough, wherein the lower end of the drive tube includes;
- b) an enlarged drive assembly housing having an inside, an outside, an upper end and a lower end, wherein the inside diameter of the enlarged assembly housing is larger than the inside diameter of the elongate drive tube;
- c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the enlarged drive assembly housing and the drive shaft;
- d) a seal, contained within the enlarged drive assembly housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the enlarged drive assembly housing;
- e) a seal cap, coupled to the lower end of the enlarged drive assembly housing, configured for retaining the seal within the enlarged drive assembly housing; and
- f) at least one seal contained within the seal cap.

74. (New) A drive assembly for a marine mud motor, comprising:

- a) an elongate drive tube, configured for rotatably receiving a drive shaft therethrough, wherein a lower end of the drive tube includes;
- b) a drive assembly housing, having a lower end;
- c) a bearing, in rotational communication between the drive assembly housing and the drive shaft; and

09/756,688
Page 9
April 22, 2005

d) a seal, contained within the drive assembly housing, configured to restrict contaminants from entering the drive assembly housing;
wherein the drive assembly housing further comprises an inside and the elongate drive tube has an outside, and wherein the inside of the drive assembly housing is coupled to the outside of the elongate drive tube.